

***Geranium oreganum* Howell**

Oregon crane's-bill
Geraniaceae (Geranium Family)

Status: State Review Group 1

Rank: G4G5SNR

General Description: Adapted from Jones and Jones (1943): This 15 $\frac{3}{4}$ to 31 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. (40-80 cm) tall perennial plant has a simple woody base with a solitary erect stem that is glabrous to somewhat hairy (pilose) and glandular. The basal leaf petioles are 6 to 15 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. (15-40 cm) long, and are either glabrous or have hairs that are directed downwards. The circular to pentagonal shaped basal leaf blades are 4 to 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. (10-12 cm) broad and are covered with sparse hairs, especially near the veins. Each leaf has 5 to 7 deep lobes that are irregularly toothed. The stem leaves are similar, with triangular to lance shaped blades that are 3 to 5 cleft and $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ in. (5-10 mm) long. The inflorescence is flat topped (a cyme), with flower stalks that are $\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 in. (1-15 cm) long, and covered with purple-tipped hairs. The oval sepals are $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ in. (7-11 mm) long. The deep rose-purple petals are egg-shaped and attached at the narrow end, and glabrous except at the base, which is covered with ciliate hairs. The anther filaments are also ciliate at the base. The stylar column when mature is 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ to 2 in. (3-5 cm) long and has dense glandular hairs. The beak is $\frac{1}{4}$ in. (5-7 mm) long. The stigma branch (styloidia) is $\frac{1}{16}$ in. (2 mm) long. The carpels (fruits) are $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ in. (6-8 mm) long, and are pubescent to hispid especially at the base and the keel where the hairs are $\frac{1}{16}$ in. (1-1.5 mm) long.

Identification Tips: *Geranium oreganum* can be distinguished by the tufts of hair at the base of the petals, and large flower size. It is closely related to *G. viscosissimum*, however *G. viscosissimum* occurs east of the Cascades, whereas *G. oreganum* occurs west of the Cascades. Within its range in Clark County, Washington it occurs with *G. molle*, which is an annual or biennial and has petals that are less than $\frac{1}{4}$ in. (7 mm) long, whereas *G. oreganum* is perennial and the petals are at least $\frac{1}{2}$ in. (12 mm) long. The basal leaves of *G. oreganum* are 4 to 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. (10-12 cm) broad and are circular to pentagonal shaped, whereas the leaves of *G. molle* are $\frac{3}{4}$ to 2 in. (2-5 cm) broad and are kidney shaped.

Phenology: This species flowers from May through July.

Range: This species is found in Alberta and British Columbia, south

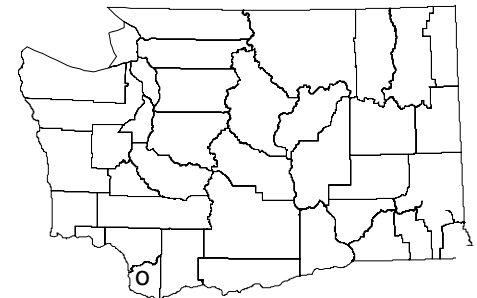
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Known distribution of
Geranium oreganum
in Washington



- Current (1980+)
- Historic (older than 1980)

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to southwestern Washington, Oregon, and California. It is historically known in Washington from Clark County.

Habitat: This species is found in woods, thickets, and meadows. No elevation or associated species have been recorded for the Washington population.

Ecology: This species is strongly associated with prairie and oak woodland remnants throughout the Willamette Valley in Oregon.

State Status Comments: In Washington this species is only known from one historical occurrence in Clark County from 1936. Because this species was recently added to the Washington rare plant list, not much is known about the degree of its rarity in the state at this time.

Inventory Needs: Additional inventory is needed in prairie and oak woodland remnants in southwestern Washington.

Threats and Management Concerns: Most prairies and oak woodlands in southwestern Washington have been converted to agriculture or residential development. The taxon has not been seen in Washington since 1936.

References:

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